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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,868	10/15/2003	Kenneth Brakeley Welles II	132361	5772

41838 7590 06/20/2006

GENERAL ELECTRIC COMPANY (PCPI)
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EXAMINER

BEAMER, TEMICA M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2617

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/685,868

Applicant(s)

WELLES ET AL.

Examiner

Temica M. Beamer

Art Unit

2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed March 20, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., in a power line communication (PLC) system, a signal propagates over wires of an electrical power network... Thus, a PLC transceiver plugged into the electrical outlet receives both electrical power and the communication signal via the electrical outlet... page 10 of the applicants remarks/arguments) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Magneron discloses a repeater station in a communications system (television), wherein the system produces electric signals (col. 2, lines 12-38). Therefore, the system is inherently a power network in that it is able to produce electrical signals.

Based on the above remarks, the rejections to claims stand as set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Magneron, U.S. Patent No. 4,061,970.

Regarding claims 1-20, Magneron discloses a method of facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising: modifying said complex impedance of said electrical power network; and determining whether said modifying affected a quality of said communication (col. 2, lines 12-39 and col. 3, lines 55-68 and col. 7, lines 42-65).

Regarding claim 21, Magneron discloses a processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising: a module for determining a quality of communication in said electrical power network; and a module for controlling a circuit to modify said complex impedance if said quality is below an acceptable threshold (col. 2, lines 12-39 and col. 3, lines 55-68 and col. 7, lines 42-65).

Regarding claim 22, Magneron discloses a processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising: a module for advising a transmitter to transmit information via said electrical power network; a module for controlling a circuit to modify said complex impedance;

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and a module for advising said transmitter to retransmit said information(col. 2,lines 12-39 and col.3, lines 55-68 and col. 7,lines 42-65).

Regarding claim 23, Magneron discloses a storage medium that contains instructions for controlling a processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising: instructions for controlling said processor to determine a quality of communication in said electrical power network; and instructions for controlling said processor to control a circuit to modify said complex impedance if said quality is below an acceptable threshold(col. 2,lines 12-39 and col.3, lines 55-68 and col. 7,lines 42-65).

Regarding claims 24, Magneron discloses a storage medium that contains instructions for controlling a processor for facilitating communication in an electrical power network having a complex impedance, comprising: instructions for controlling said processor to advise a transmitter to transmit information via said electrical power network; instructions for controlling said processor to control a circuit to modify said complex impedance; and instructions for controlling said processor to advise said transmitter to retransmit said information(col. 2,lines 12-39 and col.3, lines 55-68 and col. 7,lines 42-65).

Conclusion

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP

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§ 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Temica M. Beamer whose telephone number is (571) 272-7797. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (alternate Fridays) 7:00am-4:00pm.

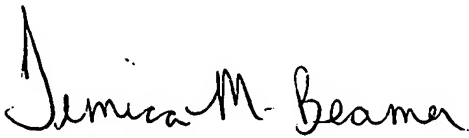
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marsha Banks-Harold can be reached on (571) 272-7905. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Temica M. Beamer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2617

tmb


TEMICA BEAMER
PRIMARY EXAMINER